

 **July 2015**

Common Core Implementation Team Blast:

A Monthly Resource for K-12 Educators!



Dear Colleagues,

I want to thank you once again, at the close of this 2014-2015 school year, for your hard work and devotion guiding students through new and higher learning experiences. Now, welcome to a well-deserved break and a summer of new adventures!

Once you've caught your breath, and some rays, check out what my team has found for you this month:

- ✓ **Hot topics** for professional learning
- ✓ **Cool ideas** needed for NJCORE.org
- ✓ **Summer reading** on teaching and learning

Stay tuned for more in August when we hope to bring you news on the changes ahead for the Division of Academics—all designed to serve you better!

Kimberley Harrington, Chief Academic Officer, Division of Academics



NJ's Collaborative Online Resource Exchange (NJCORE.org)

YOU are invited to participate in the “relaunch” of NJCORE.org this fall! Join an ongoing workgroup to experience new proposed features of the site, rate resources for colleagues, and preview new Professional Learning Modules. You'll also collect resources for your classroom, share your resources to the site and peruse the community resources. To find out more information about the group and meeting dates, contact Lisa McClintock, Division of Academics, at lisa.mcclintock@doe.state.nj.us



NJ Academic Standards



English Language Arts and Mathematics

- **NJDOE's *The Bridge* Newsletter for Educators – June 2015**

This issue of *The Bridge* includes the Commissioner's remarks on what the process will be to review the current core standards. Other important articles include a new role for NJ's Teacher Advisory Panel (NJTAP), proposed Blended Learning Modules for teachers, and a peek into the fifth-grade classroom of Middlesex County's Teacher of the Year.

<http://www.nj.gov/education/bridge/15/06/06.pdf>

- **Kappan Core Writing Project**

The Phi Delta Kappan Writing Project website, funded through a Learning First Alliance grant, provides a venue for educators to share experiences regarding implementation of Mathematics and English Language Arts standards. Find articles and lessons learned as to “what works (and what doesn’t) in realizing the best 21st-century education for all children.”

<http://www.kappancommoncore.org/>

- **National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) Library**

This advocacy group began as the National Center for Summer Learning at Johns Hopkins University, and in 2009 became an independent organization called the National Summer Learning Association. They provide resources, guidance and expertise to the summer learning community by offering training and resources to address and remediate the student “summer slide.” Sign up for free to access their online clearinghouse of research articles and reports.

<http://www.summerlearning.org/>

- **Southern California School District Integrates Arts into Geometry Lessons**

Mathematics teachers in a Southern California school district are introducing math lessons which integrate the visual and performing arts (VAPA). One such example is the creation of wearable art made of recyclables as part of a geometry class. The hands-on lessons are aligned to the learning standards and focused on critical thinking and problem solving.

<http://www.scpr.org/news/2015/06/10/52314/arts-opening-door-to-common-core-learning-in-social/>

- **Discovery Education Free Resources**

Discovery Education “offers a broad range of free classroom resources that complement and extend learning beyond the bell.” While their consultants offer a variety of fee-based services and professional development, the organization provides access to this website of free resources for teachers, parents and K-12 students including programs, lessons plans, videos and more.

<http://www.discoveryeducation.com//teachers/>



Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)

- **NJDOE offers EQuIP Training Statewide**

This June 16th memo describes the July and August professional learning sessions to be offered by the Department’s Office of STEM. The sessions are designed to build educator capacity to use the Educators Evaluating the Quality of Instructional Products (EQuIP) rubric for science. For more information, contact Michael Heinz at Michael.heinz@doe.state.nj.us

<http://education.state.nj.us/broadcasts/2015/JUN/16/13767/Equip%20Training%20Announcement.pdf>

- **Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) June 2015 newsletter**

Find the current NGSS NOW newsletter at this site with stories on standards adoption and implementation in various states, as well as lessons learned and shared insights.

<http://www.nextgenscience.org/sites/ngss/files/June2015NGSSNOW.pdf>



Spotlight on Local NJ Districts

- **Toms River Regional School District Chosen for innovateNJ**

Toms River Regional School District has been chosen to join the Department's **innovateNJ** community for 2014-2015—a program designed to help schools develop and share model classroom practices across the state. The district was chosen based on “creative uses of classroom resources, the Board’s 5-Year commitment to increase technology and innovation funding, and work to connect educators and communities within Ocean County and southern NJ through regional meetings, virtual platforms, and a statewide educational event.” As part of the program, they will partner with the A. Harry Moore School in Jersey City which is pioneering adaptive technologies for their pre-K to 12th grade students with disabilities.

http://www.trschools.com/newsnotes/stories/2014-2015/nn_Innovatenj.asp



***Note:** We'd like to share what local districts are doing to help students, families and community better understand the NJ's academic standards and PARCC assessments. Please send information about your district to njcore@doe.state.nj.us and we'll post it here!*



**Partnership for Assessment of
Readiness for College and Careers**

- **PARCC Online offers “News and Updates”**

Changes are planned for PARCC tests in the next school year. Check this website regularly for news and updates on the assessments.

<http://www.parcconline.org/news>

- **NJDOE June 16th Memo on Revised 2015-2016 Test Schedule for PARCC and more**

In this recent memo, Assistant Commissioner Bari Anhalt Erlichson provides districts with information on the changes to the 2015-2016 school year testing calendar for PARCC, NJASK, NJBCT, APA, and DLM assessments. Questions are welcomed by the Office of Assessments, at 609- 984-6311 or assessment@doe.state.nj.us.

<http://education.state.nj.us/broadcasts/2015/JUN/16/13771/revised%20testing%20window%20memo.pdf>



FREE Summer Webinars

- **CCSSO Implement the Common Core Standards (ICCS) Webinars**

http://www.ccsso.org/CCSS_Forum_State_Resources_and_Success_Stories_to_Implement_the_Common_Core/Webinars_and_Newsletters.html

- **ASCD Webinars**

<http://www.ascd.org/professional-development/webinars.aspx>



YOU are a Professional Resource

- **NJ Council of Teachers of English (NJCTE) Seeking Articles for 2016 Journal**

NJCTE seeks material for the 2016 New Jersey English Journal. Editors are looking for “researched articles as well as creative written responses that shed light on the many possibilities, topics, issues, problems and solutions related to the development of the Language Arts teaching profession.” The theme is “The Teaching Profession: Past, Present and Future” and manuscripts can be sent up until **December 15, 2015**.

<http://www.njcte.com/n-j-english-journal/>

- **ASCD Express Invites Content for September 24, 2015 Issue**

ASCD Express is a free e-newsletter published twice monthly with “practical, actionable strategies and information” written by and for practitioners. Editors are accepting contributions for the September 24 issue on “How to Begin and End Lessons.” Share your ideas about how you “hook students on a topic from the moment they step into your classroom” and best ways to share objectives and communicate lesson expectations. Deadline for materials is **July 15, 2015**.

<http://www.ascd.org/ascd-express/Themes/Write-for-ASCD-Express.aspx#>

- **ASCD Educational Leadership Articles for February 2016 Issue**

ASCD Educational Leadership editors are looking for articles to appear in the February 2016 issue on “Helping ELLs Excel.” With more schools serving more English language learners, they are seeking your thoughts on “how schools can set high but achievable expectations for ELLs to ensure that they can not only survive academically, but also excel.” For more guidance on manuscript requirements, go to website below. Deadline for materials is **September 1, 2015**.

<http://www.ascd.org/Publications/Educational-Leadership/Upcoming-Themes.aspx>



Further (Summer!) Reading

- **ASCD SmartBrief's SmartBlog on Summer Advice for Educators**

See why the author of this blog suggests educators might want to “grow like the grass” during summer months *by* slowing down, reflecting and relaxing.

<http://smartblogs.com/education/2015/06/17/grow-like-the-grass/>



FREE Professional Development Opportunities

- **Apply for the 2015 Amistad Commission Summer Institute for Teachers**

The 2015 Summer Institute will center on “the struggles of integration above the Mason-Dixon Line, in NJ,” and this year’s “milestone anniversary of the civil rights movement, particularly the *Voting Rights Act of 1965*, as the thematic foundation for lectures, crafting unit and lesson plans, and studying texts, topics, and ideas central to elementary and secondary social studies education. Click on the Application Information and Instruction links below to apply by **July 15, 2015**.

- **Amistad Commission Summer Curriculum Institute for Teachers - Northern Region**
Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ - August 3-5, 2015
[Application Information and Instructions](#)
- **Amistad Commission Summer Curriculum Institute for Teachers - Southern Region**
Stockton University, Galloway, NJ - July 27-29, 2015
[Application Information and Instructions](#)
- Information also available at: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/amistad/summer.htm>

- **NJDOE Calendar of Events Summer 2015**

The Department invites you to register for various workshops through July and August, on topics from pre-school to college readiness for students. Be sure to see the Summer Learning Labs for all students, presented by the Office of Special Education, to be held at the regional Learning Resource Centers.

<http://education.state.nj.us/events/>

- **Free Edcamp Global – July 31 through August 1, 2015**

The innovative “edcamp” concept is going global this summer. Register for the free “24 Hour Global Learning Experience” scheduled for July 31-August 1, 2015. Organizers promise you “will find sessions for 24 hours that accommodate any schedule across the world” with participants determining content by completing a form available on registration website below.

<http://edcampglobal.wix.com/edcamp#>



Do you know someone who isn't receiving these?

Forward this to a colleague and encourage them to sign-up!
<http://education.state.nj.us/ccit/subscribe.php>.



Missed any CCIT mailings?

Find previous mailings at:
<http://www.nj.gov/education/sca/news/>



How else can we help you?

Send us an e-mail at njcore@doe.state.nj.us

NJCore.org What's Trending?

New Features & Content on NJCORE.ORG (<http://njcore.org/>)

- Badge awards for resource contributions levels.
- Featured content area on homepage

	Month (June)	Since Launch
Number of Registered Educators	32	2312
Number of Visitors	6,854	161,639
Top 5 Districts	Patterson	Trenton
	Trenton	Passaic
	Jersey City	Patterson
	Newark	Newark
	Elizabeth	Bayonne
Number of Uploaded Resources	801	3724